

# Department of Natural Resources Impact in Buffalo County

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources aims to excel at working and partnering with the public to protect and manage the state's natural resources while supporting the economy and the well-being of our citizenry.



## Did you know?

In 2011, Wisconsin had

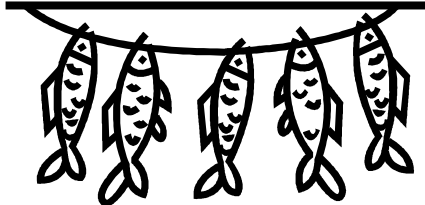
**763,384**



**RESIDENT HUNTERS**

In 2011, fishing in Wisconsin had an economic impact of over

**\$1.4 billion**



In Buffalo County, **12,748** licenses were sold in 2013-14.

## Contact Information

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[Facebook.com/widnr/](https://www.facebook.com/widnr/)

## Investments in Recreation

Buffalo River State Trail has close to **38,000 visitors annually** generating an **estimated \$4.3 million** for the local community.

Merrick State Park has approximately **83,000 visitors annually** generating an **estimated \$3.8 million** for the local community.

The **Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area** is one of DNR's **hallmark projects** in West Central Wisconsin. It protects the largest concentration of **remnant dry prairies and globally-imperiled oak savannas** in the Midwest.

DNR offers a variety of safety classes around the state annually. In 2013, a total of **244 citizens** became **hunter, ATV, boating and snowmobile** certified in Buffalo County.

## Community Partnerships

DNR invested **\$258,400** in **state wildlife and forest properties** in Buffalo County for infrastructure upgrades, such as road work, bunk houses and campground upgrades.

In 2014, the **Landowner Incentive Program** provided **\$11,000** in **cost-share funding** for private land restoration at Twin Bluffs. An important archaeological site used by Native Americans, the bluffs are a well-known landmark on Wisconsin's Great River Road and support remnant dry prairies; bald eagles, red-headed woodpeckers, other migratory songbirds and reptiles.

## Snapshot of grants in Buffalo County

A total of **\$1,018,024** was awarded to Buffalo County for **water quality, outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, public health and safety and forestry activities**.

**\*\*Numbers reflect the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 time period.**

## Forestry Activities

Forestry is one of the **top 10 employers** in Buffalo County. It produces **\$91.4 million** in economic output providing **\$30.5 million** in added value.

Through the Forest Tax Law programs (Forest Crop and MFL) **78, 606 acres of private land in Buffalo County are being properly managed** for timber, wildlife, water quality and a healthy environment.

Since June 2010, **DNR provided over \$19,352 to private forest owners in the county to assist them in protecting and enhancing their forested lands and waters** through as management plan development, tree planting, practices that improve forest health and soil and water protection.

Since 2011, DNR has granted **\$7,536 to local Fire Departments** to purchase equipment and supplies that improve their capability and safety on wild land fires.

Since 2005, **over 3,645 cord equivalents of timber products have been harvested from state-owned land** in Buffalo County. The harvests provided over **\$125,358 in revenue** to the state and contributed employment opportunities and raw materials to the local economy.

## Environmental Cleanup Efforts

Foundry sand from Badger Foundry in Winona, MN. was used as fill material to **create more usable space**, including a parking lot expansion, at the Mississippi Thunder Speedway in Fountain City. **This was a multi-year, multi-phase project.**

With oversight from DNR, the US Army Corps of Engineers **recently completed cleanup efforts on a long-contaminated site** in Fountain City.

**Two new sand mine compliance positions** were authorized in the most recent State Budget. DNR is **inspecting sand mining related operations at a greater rate** due to these additional positions.

## Deer Management in Buffalo County

In 2014, Buffalo County established a County Deer Advisory Council. One council per county, they provide input and recommendations to the DNR on deer management.

DNR worked with 15 landowners who have 1,800 acres enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program to improve wildlife habitat on their property.

In 2013, a total of 7,595 deer were registered in Buffalo County with 1,826 harvested during archery deer season and 5,769 harvested during the gun deer season.